

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 168416

1. AUGUST 24 CHARGE CALLED AT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ON BOTH DURINI, ACTING CHIEF AMERICAS OFFICE, AND MAURO HENCIC, ACTING HEAD OF OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RE PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24. HE PRESENTED US POSITION PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL AND URGED YUGOSLAVS TO HELP BLOCK PARA 2 OF CUBAN DRAFT RES. DURINI EXPRESSED AWARENESS TRONG US INTEREST INVOLVED IN PUERTO RICO ISSUE AND AGREED PURSUE MATTER WITHIN SECRETARIAT TO INSURE THESE INTERESTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FORMULATING YUGOSLAV POSITION.

2. HENCIC PROVED WELL INFORMED ON PROGRESS COMMITTEE OF 24 DEBATE BUT, IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION EMB APPROACH, SAID HE HAD NOT AS YET LEARNED OF OUTLINES CUBAN DRAFT. HE REACTED FIRMLY WHEN TEXT OF DRAFT PARA 2 WAS PRESENTED, STATING IT WAS STRONGER THAN GOY COULD SUPPORT. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT IT COULD ATTRACT MAJORITY OF VOTES IN COMMITTEE OF 24. HENCIC SAID YUGOSLAV POSITION ENVISAGES DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN COM-
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MITTEE OF 24 ONLY. YUGOSLAVIA FAVORED LAST YEAR'S COMMITTEE ACTION,

WHICH ESTABLISHED PUERTO RICO WORKING GROUP, AS WELL AS RESOLUTION PERMITTING COMMITTEE HEARING FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS, BUT GOY WOULD OPPOSE "STRONG" RESOLUTION SUCH AS PRESENT CUBAN DRAFT BECAUSE IT WOULD REQUIRE ACTION AT HIGHER LEVEL IN UN, I.E. BY 4TH COMMITTEE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE ADDED THAT EVIDENCE SUGGESTS UN GENERAL COMMITTEE WOULD NOT FAVOR INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICAN ITEM ON AGENDA OF UPCOMING GA AND THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GENERAL COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF 24 WHICH COULD ONLY HARM PRESTIGE OF LATTER.

3. HENCIC ALSO MENTIONED SUBSTANTIVE REASONS WHY GOY WOULD NOT FAVOR "STRONG" RESOLUTION, STATING SUCH ACTION WOULD NOT CONFORM REALISTICALLY TO CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN PUERTO RICO. HE SAID PUERTO RICANS HAVE, AS US ARGUES, ALREADY HAD VARIOUS OCCASIONS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS; OUTCOME OF VOTING SO FAR UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS THEIR AWARENESS THAT EXISTING COMMON-WEALTH RELATIONSHIP TO US IS HIGHLY BENEFICIAL FROM STANDPOINT OF PUERTO RICO'S DEVELOPMENT.

4. CONCLUDING, HE DESCRIBED CUBAN WORDING IN PARA 2 OF DRAFT RES AS RIDICULOUS ATTEMPT SUGGEST THAT PARALLEL EXISTS BETWEEN PUERTO RICO PETROCHEMICAL SUPERPORT AND CAHORA BASSA DAM IN MOZAMBIQUE AND HENCE BETWEEN SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO AND STRUGGLE OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.

5. INFORMED THAT VOTING ON DRAFT MIGHT POSSIBLY TAKE PLACE AUGUST 27, HENCIC AGREED CABLE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION PROMPTLY CONCERNING YUGOSLAV POSITION ON OFFENSIVE PARAGRAPH.

6. COMMENT. EMBASSY IS AWARE GOY POSITION OFTEN PRESENTED TO US HERE AS BEING MORE POSITIVE AND ACCOMMODATING THAN STAND ACTUALLY TAKEN BY YUGOSLAV DEL IN NY. HOWEVER, HENCIC SEEMED STRAIGHT-FORWARD ENOUGH IN DESCRIBING YUGOSLAV POLICY ON PUERTO RICO AS IT HAS EVOLVED UP TO NOW. DEPUTY CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER RENE ANILLO CAPOTE WAS IN BELGRADE EARLIER THIS WEEK, AND DISCUSSIONS QUITE LIKELY COVERED QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO AT ALGIERS NONALIGNED SUMMIT AS WELL AS IN COMMITTEE OF 24 AND UNGA. UNLESS CUBANS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING ABOUT LAST MINUTE RADICAL TURN, GOY DELEGATION IN NEW YORK SHOULD BE COUNTED ON TO OPPOSE PRESENT "STRONG" DRAFT.

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7. IN ANY CASE, FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CAN HAVE NO DOUBTS AS TO STRENGTH OF US FEELINGS ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE. IN ADDITION TO TODAY'S DEMARCHE, AS DEPT WILL RECALL, AMBASSADOR PRESENTED OUR VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO FIRMLY IMMEDIATELY AFTER GEORGETOWN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE LAST YEAR.

JOHNSON

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